

The Man Who Went Wrong

By C. B. LEWIS

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There had been a gale in the gulf all night long, and as daylight came and the Cuban scouts looked out of the thicket in which they had lain through the night the white topped waves were chasing each other ashore like so many wild horses. They were there to meet a blockade runner which was to have landed a cargo for them the previous night, but the gale had kept her away from the coast.

"What is it?" was asked as one of the group uttered a shout and pointed out to sea.

"Boom!" came the report of a canon as if in answer.

Three miles off the coast was a tiny craft heading straight for the shore under a bit of sail, and not half a mile behind her was a Spanish gunboat which had opened fire at the reeling, dancing target. Such was the tumble of the waves that the larger craft might have fired all day long and only planted a lucky shot by accident, and it soon became apparent to the watchers that if the little craft were handled right she would at least reach the breakers in safety. Then heaven help the man who was sailing her. She came on like a gull, sometimes hove up until she seemed to launch herself through the air and again sinking so far out of sight, and being hidden so long that the watchers held their breath and spoke no word.

A-h-h-h! Cheer!

As the water began to shoal the gunboat slewed her head around and wallowed in the trough of the sea for a moment, as if she would turn turtle, and then got her keel under her and steamed out to sea. The scouts waved their hats and cheered the man who was holding the stem of the boat, hardly more than a skiff, straight for the beach at their feet. They ran and pulled down a vine from a tree, formed in line with the outer mass up to his waist in the boiling foam, and when the craft struck the first breaker and was hurled end over end the stranger was caught by the collar of his jacket and drawn out of the grip of the deadly undertow.

"Well done and thanks for it," he said five minutes later, when he had cleared his eyes and mouth of salt water.

"How came you adrift in that craft?" asked the leader.

"I came from Key West to join you. You are insurgents, I take it? Take me to headquarters."

"But you braved the gale in that craft?"

"I scuttled before it all night."

"And you—you have come to help us fight?"

"Take me to headquarters," answered the man. And he shut his jaws and would talk no more.

A man was detailed to conduct him to insurgent headquarters. What the stranger said to the general never will be known. Perhaps he told all; perhaps he simply said that like many another American free lance he had come to help Cuba win her independence. Good men were too scarce for any caviling. In two days the stranger, who had so simply been dubbed "Yankee," was scouting. He was silent and taciturn and made no friends, but when it was found that he had plenty of courage the men rallied to him and were led by him without heartburnings or jealousies. They said of him to each other when out of earshot:

"He is educated. He is a gentleman. He has gone wrong somehow. Let him be his secret, however."

Three months after the landing General Weyler had offered a reward for Yankee, dead or alive. He detailed fifty scouts for no other purpose but to look for him.

Day by day he rallied at them for their want of success. One by one their number dwindled away under the bullets of Yankee's little band of ten. The Spanish tried bribery, but the insurgents turned their backs on the sums named. They set traps, but the Cuban scouts scented them and refused to walk in.

In six months a hundred Spanish soldiers owed their death to the little band, and a hundred night alarms could be aid to the same cause. Then there came a day when Spanish cunning prevailed. Men were sent out to be defeated and fall beneath Cuban bullets, while those who lived fell back in seeming panic. The ruse succeeded, and the ten, led by Yankee, suddenly found themselves surrounded.

It was on the edge of an old sugar plantation. When the leader saw that retreat was cut off and that he was surrounded on all sides, he gave orders to retreat to the engine house of the mill. It was a small brick building, and when doors and windows had been barricaded it made a strong little fort. It was so strong that, although there were 400 Spanish infantry on the ground, they dared not rush it. They simply surrounded it and sent for cannon to batter down the walls.

The Cubans were trapped like rats. They had neither food nor water, and their cartridges were reduced to seven per man. It did not take the slowest-witted man among them more than a quarter of an hour to realize that the engine house was a death trap. All instinctively gathered about the leader. No one asked a question. The posture of each man spoke for him.

"They are 400 to 10," said Yankee as he looked around him. "We have set

enty bullets, and we must kill seventy of the enemy. After that?"

"What?"

"We must die fighting with our machetes. We will make a rush for it and die fighting."

"But if we could send word to Gomez?"

"He has 200 men with him," answered the leader, with a laugh. "If he had a thousand, who of us is to penetrate the Spanish lines and notify him? A bird could fly over them, but a fox could not make his way through them. No, my comrades, it is the end. We have fought long and well. It only remains to die without shame. Whenever you see a target plane, a bullet into it. We must have seventy lives for our ten. It will take them till noon tomorrow to get a caisson here. Now work."

The Spanish maintained a hot musketry fire all the afternoon, but their bullets were thrown away. It was more for moral effect than any hope that the lead might reach any of the defenders. On the contrary, the trapped men fired only when they had a human target within range, and not a bullet was wasted.

The night passed quietly. There was no earthy show for the Cubans to escape through that cordon, and men were under arms all night to repulse a sudden rush. When morning came the fusillade recommenced, and at 11 o'clock the fieldpiece arrived. There had been no firing from the Cubans for the last half hour. Their last cartridge had been expended.

"This will be the way of it," said Yankee as the men gathered around: "We shall first be summoned to surrender. If any one or all of you want to take advantage of that, well and good. You will probably be shot within half an hour, but there is a bare possibility that the Spanish may keep faith with you. Any one want to try it?"

There was a murmur of dissent from every man.

"Very well. We will reject surrender. They will then open fire. Whether they use solid shot or shell, they will better down these walls like paper. Get the barricade at the door ready to throw down when I give the word, and then we will give our old battle cry for the last time and have at them. Your firing was so good that I have scored off seven for each man, but we can get one more apiece in the rush. We shall go under, but we have comrades who will know how we died."

Under a day of truce they were summoned to surrender, but the ten answered with cheers of defiance. Then the cannon opened fire, and at the third discharge the barricade was thrown down, and there was a cheer and a rush. The useless guns were left behind. It was a rush, a melee, a mad whirl of fighters, and then all was over. The ten had got another man apiece and more. Their comrades back in the thicket heard the tale days after: we read of it in the papers afterwards had gone by. All of us said the same. It was the way to die for Cuba.

Where the weeds grow rank and the hideous land crabs scamper about unchecked and unafraid there is a grave for nine. Some strange fragment of sentiment caused the Spanish commander to give the tenth man a grave by himself. Had he finished his work by erecting a headboard he might have written thereon, "Here lieth a man who went wrong, but in death he atoned for it." But a week later no wolf could have found the spot.

His Happy Return.
It was Old Home week, and the returned sons and grandsons had been telling with more or less pride of the changes time had wrought for them. At last Edward Jameson spoke:

"I went away from here twenty years ago a poor young man, with only one solitary dollar in my pocket. I walked the four miles from my father's farm to the station, and there I begged a ride to Boston on a freight car. Last night I drove into town behind a spirited pair of horses, and my purse—guess how much my purse holds in money today, besides a large check." And Mr. Jameson looked about him with a brilliant smile.

"Fifty dollars!"
"Seventy-five!"

"A hundred!" shouted the boys, filled with admiration.

"No," said Mr. Jameson, drawing a large flat purse from his pocket when the claim had subsided, "none of you has guessed right. When I had paid the 25 cents to Oxy Booga for my refreshing drive in the coach I had, besides my trunk check (which I retained for financial reasons), exactly 4 cents. I have come back my friends, to stay. Any little jobs of sawing and splitting will be gratefully received."

Comparative Strength of Materials.
Cast iron weighs 444 pounds to the cubic foot and an inch square bar will sustain a weight of 18,500 pounds; bronze, weight 525 pounds, tensile 3,600; wrought iron, weight 480, tensile 50,000; hard "struck" steel, weight 490, tensile 78,000; aluminum, weight 163, tensile 28,000. We are accustomed to think of metals as being stronger than wood, and so they are, generally speaking, if only pieces of the same size be tested, but when equal weights of the two materials are compared it is then found that several varieties of wood are stronger than ordinary steel. A bar of pine just as heavy as a bar of steel an inch square will hold up 125,000 pounds, the best at 175,000 pounds and some hemlock 200,000 pounds. Wood is bulky. It occupies ten or twelve times the space of steel. The best steel castings made for the United States navy have a tensile of 65,000 to 75,000 pounds to the square inch. By solidifying such castings under great pressure a tensile strength of 80,000 to 150,000 pounds may be obtained.

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ESTIMATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION.

NOTICE

To R. Halsted Ward, individually and as executor of Israel C. Ward; Anna L. Ward, individually and as executrix of Israel C. Ward; Sarah Taylor and Frederick Fischer. Take notice:

In the matter of the report of the Commissioners of Adjustment of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, Number 1, filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court by which they were appointed, that on the twenty-fourth day of February, nineteen hundred and six, the Essex County Circuit Court made an order that the owners and lessees of the several lots or parcels of lands affected thereby and being described as follows, lying and being in the Township of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey:

Beginning at the division line between Bellville Township and the Town of Bloomfield, where the same is intersected by the right of way of the Watchung Branch of the Erie Railroad; thence along the centre line of said railroad, and the centre line of the following streets: Centre line of Grove street, along the centre line of Grove street to the centre line of Locust street, along the centre line of Locust street to the centre line of Orange street, along the centre line of Orange street to the centre line of Elm street, along the centre line of Elm street to the centre line of Prospect street, along the centre line of Prospect street to the centre line of Glenwood avenue, along the centre line of Glenwood avenue to the point where the same would be intersected by the centre line of Nelson street if produced, along the centre line of Nelson street to the centre line of Locust street, along the centre line of Locust street to the centre line of Main street, along the centre line of Main street to the centre line of Elm street, along the centre line of Elm street to the centre line of Prospect street, along the centre line of Prospect street to the centre line of Glenwood avenue, along the centre line of Glenwood avenue to the point where the same would be intersected by the centre line of Nelson street if produced, along the centre line of Nelson street to the centre line of Langdon street, along the centre line of Langdon street to the centre line of Fulton street, along the centre line of Fulton street to the centre line of Locust street, along the centre line of Locust street to the centre line of Prospect street, along the centre line of Prospect street to the centre line of Glenwood avenue, along the centre line of Glenwood avenue to the point where the same would be intersected by the centre line of Nelson street if produced, along the centre line of Nelson street to the centre line of Langdon street, along the centre line of Langdon street to the centre line of 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